

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC #3364-77
9 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Robert R. Bowie
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for *PE*
Political Economy

SUBJECT : Your Meeting with Secretary Bergland,
12 December

STAT 1. Action Requested: None; background and talking points for your meeting with Secretary Bergland. You will be supported by [redacted] of OER. I also plan to attend.

2. Background: Monday's meeting is the outcome of your 18 November letter (tab A) inviting the Secretary to discuss problems of Soviet grain estimates and possibilities for improving CIA support of USDA. We do not know precisely what issues Secretary Bergland will raise, but you may wish to begin by eliciting his views on what the Agency could usefully do for USDA beyond the kinds of support already being provided (tab B).

3. Issues for Discussion: In addition to the subject of improved CIA support, three topics may, and probably should, come up for discussion.

- Can we improve on the accuracy of our crop estimates?
- Should CIA continue to produce independent estimates of foreign crops and agricultural trade?
- What, concretely, can be done to improve CIA-USDA cooperation on crop estimates?

4. We have elaborated on the above issues in the attached talking points paper (tab C). These materials have been coordinated with OGCR and OER.

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE)

Agriculture

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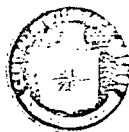
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NIO/PE [redacted]
(9 December 1977)

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The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

18 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Bob S. Bergland
The Secretary of Agriculture

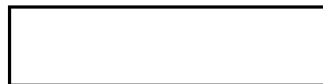
SUBJECT: Post-mortem on Predictions on
Soviet Grain

I asked my staff for a post-mortem on our prediction on Soviet grain. Enclosed is a short paper that they gave me on this. I thought it would interest you also. One of these days perhaps we should sit down together and talk about how we can improve our accuracy, how much emphasis is warranted in this area, and whether there is anything else we can do at the CIA end to support you better.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stansfield Turner".

STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosure

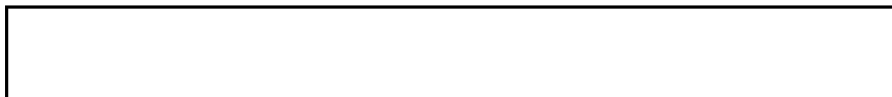


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CIA now briefs USDA on a regular basis on the following items:

- Forecasts of Soviet grain production and its implications for the international grain market.
- All source analysis on selected international commodity markets (grain, soybeans, tropical products, sugar) with emphasis on foreign demand for US products where appropriate.
- Intelligence efforts to monitor worldwide grain and soybean shipments moving into USSR and PRC ports to determine volume and any handling difficulties.

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- Finished intelligence on foreign economic and political developments that bear on world commodity markets and/or food problems.

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